

November, while in Brazil it commences in May and ends in September.

Though the broad principles of the preparation of coffee for market are well known, the description here given, especially aided as it is by the practical illustrations, will be of especial value. No book on coffee could possibly be complete without a reference to the diseases to which the plant is subject, whether the disease belongs to the vegetable or animal kingdom. Consequently we find thirty-one pages devoted to this part of the subject. Substitutes for coffee also come under consideration, occupying, however, a comparatively small space, and though no doubt sufficient is said about them, their number might be considerably increased. Perhaps one of the most interesting parts of the book is that treating on production, in which each country is considered separately, the first chapter being devoted to the American Continent, and naturally leading off with Brazil. British, Dutch and French Guiana are also considered, and comparisons made with product and export, as are also those of Paraguay, Venezuela, Columbia, Costa Rica, Mexico and other places. The West Indies, including Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trinidad and other important coffee growing countries, as well as the Eastern countries and Africa, are also referred to. This part of the subject is practically illustrated by a map of the world, showing at a glance the geographical distribution of the coffee plant, together with the production of each country in kilogrammes, and the date to which the figures refer. A comparison of the produce of each country is readily gained by a series of disks of different sizes, with the names of the country beneath each, and the total in figures; from this it will be seen that Brazil is far ahead of any other individual country. An interesting table is also given showing the consumption of coffee in the principal countries of the world, from which it seems that of the European countries Germany consumes by far the largest quantity. The figures in tons for 1897 standing thus—Germany 136,390, France 77,310, England 12,420, while the consumption in the U.S. of America in the same year amounted to 318,170 tons. The book concludes with a table of subjects of the several chapters, but lacks that most necessary adjunct of all books—a good index.

#### THE BIRDS OF SURREY.

*The Birds of Surrey.* By J. A. Bucknill. Pp. lvi + 374, illustrated. (London: R. H. Porter, 1900.)

FROM its great extent of open moorland and the presence of several large sheets of water, Surrey occupies an unusually favourable position among the metropolitan counties for the development of a large bird-fauna; and since a very considerable portion of the county is now undergoing a metamorphosis under the hands of the builder as the area of the metropolis and its suburbs increase, it is most important that a full record should be secured of the species of birds which are fast disappearing from its limits. The compiling of such records, and the careful working out of the past history of locally distributed species within the limits treated of, seem, indeed, to be the chief justification for the publication of county ornithologies. And in this respect, as well as in the careful collection of local bird-

names, the author of the work before us appears to have discharged his task in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. An instance of this is afforded by his account of the occurrence of the black-grouse in Surrey. To many of our readers it will probably come as a surprise to learn that black-cock shooting was a recognised sport on the Surrey moors during the forties, and even to a considerably later date. At the present day there is, however, scarcely a single genuine wild bird of this species to be met with in the county; and the excellent history of its gradual extermination given by Mr. Bucknill should, therefore, be read with the greatest interest alike by sportsmen and by ornithologists. The raven, the buzzard, the marsh-harrier, and the dotterel are other species which have disappeared from the county, either totally or as nesting birds; the last record of the occurrence of the dotterel being 1845, when a couple of specimens were purchased from the landlord of an inn at Hindhead.

Of the numerous rare birds that have been noticed from time to time in the county, the great majority have been visitors to the well-known Frensham ponds, the larger of which extends into Hampshire. Here we are practically in Gilbert White's country; and in these favoured haunts have been seen the osprey, the spoonbill, several of the rarer kinds of duck, the goosander, and the purple heron. Sad to say, the arrival of these wanderers has for the most part been speedily followed by their slaughter; and, as the author remarks, hundreds of other avian rarities have doubtless been killed and eaten without record. Unhappily, the great increase in game preservation which has taken place of late years in the county appears to have been the cause of the diminution in the numbers of many of the rarer species of birds. But there are many country gentlemen, on the other hand, who are lovers of natural history, and who veto as much as possible the bird-slaying propensities of their gamekeepers. It is to such, and to the laws now in force for the protection of wild birds, that we have to look for the commencement of a better state of things in the wilder parts of the county. And the fact that the golden oriole and the hoopoe have been observed of late years on several occasions indicates the probability that these beautiful birds would once more nest in the Surrey groves if only they received adequate protection.

A feature of the book is the beautiful series of illustrations of Surrey scenery; the views of Frensham Great Pond and of the Surrey Weald being some of the best examples of landscape photogravure that have come under our notice. Although primarily intended for residents in the county (among whom we are glad to see that a long list of subscribers has been enrolled), the book is full of interest to all bird-lovers living in the south of England. R. L.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Untersuchungen ueber d. Vermehrung d. Laubmoose durch Brutorgane und Stecklinge.* Von Dr. Carl Correns, a.ö. Prof. d. Botanik in Tübingen. Pp. xxiv+472; mit 187 abbild. (Jena: Verlag v. Gustav Fischer, 1899.)

FEW people perhaps fully realise how abundantly the mosses are provided with modes of vegetative reproduction, even although they may be fully cognisant of the fact that the protonema—the precursor of the moss-